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THANKSGIVING AT HOME.

We have only two great family feasts left—Thanksgiving and Christmas. In one we express our gratitude for the fruits of harvest and the perpetual bounty of the good earth. At the other, we celebrate the spirit of love and brotherhood and faith in the future of life. No man can deny that these are very great things, and that the days we give to the ceremonial observances of these human feelings should be paid off from an invasion of lesser emotions and more worldly thoughts.

Yet is not the family significance of Thanksgiving being lost in a rush of pleasures, social interests and gaiety that is only incidental to the spirit of the times? Once, it was the day when the family in all its branches and generations tried to assemble at some central hearth to rejoice together over the blessings of health, prosperity and happiness. Now, it is strangely enough, Thanksgiving seems to be the time when each division of the family rushes out to take part in what it thinks is a "good time." In the North and West, where Thanksgiving is perhaps a more formal festival than in the South, the great football games have been changed to an earlier date. The people found that dinner was being rushed through with so much of an early progress to the stadium. Of course, we enjoy football. It is a pretty and inspiring spectacle. Yet is it possibly a form of celebration for this time? We wonder.

At night there come the theatre and the dance to break up the family circle. It happens often enough that the parents and the old folks are left rather forlornly gathered in an empty house, wishing that there were more simple, joyous fun that comes from good feeling between those who are linked by blood.

Our plea is not for a less joyful Thanksgiving but for a wiser and more thoughtful. Read in Dickens about the Christmases when Mr. Pickwick visited Wardle's Farms. That will tell you what can be done in a family for a "real good time." We need more family life, more simplicity and gentleness, more quiet talk around the fire. Let us save Thanksgiving for these pleasures.

TRE COLD STORAGE INVESTIGATION.

Attorney-General McReynolds has ordered an investigation of the cold storage situation in the United States. The alleged cold storage combine is the object of the inquiry as phrased in the Washington dispatches. If it be combined agreement, trust or what not innocent or harmful, the people will be pleased to see it investigated.

If cold storage proprietors in the cities have been unfairly suspicious of practices injurious to the common good they ought to be the first to favor sincerely full inquiry which might establish facts which would prove their innocence. No one, of course, should seek to prevent an investigation of this character.

No matter what sanction law may grant, the average citizen must be persuaded to believe that the holding of thousands of pounds of butter and bacon creates of thousands of dozens of eggs and tons upon tons of other food until the spur of necessity drives prices to abnormal figures is acht but no reason. If this follows such a situation, the law should be altered. If the practice violated the Federal law then the offenders will face the law and the people who have paid the bills must look to the government for a punishment.

The public opinion is unanimous and unanimous, because it cultivates the notion that the spirit of dependence and parochialism. Any scheme for paying no reason by taxation to people without enough to live on is fundamentally bad to patient relief. Desperate poverty may make the occasional necessities, but in the majority of cases it helps undermine the character and kills the independence. We may know here that giving money to a mother is not charity in a sense, but a mere recognition of the service motherhood is to the state.

The doctor thinks the real issue is between the family as a unit and the responsibility of the state for the children. His diagnosis of the situation which states interfere in the disintegration of the family and the old family virtues.

We doubt whether there will be wide agreement with much that Dr. Devine offers, but we must have him right on these fundamentals. The last evidence against the system of cold storage is that the people are best fed at home and not sent to a grocery store with opportunities to compare themselves with the other grocery instead.

The public has no better argument than to say that the law will bring justice when they have been wronged, and it has submitted to a grocery with a smile when trying to furnish the people with opportunities to compare themselves with the other grocery.

Chances before says that American girls are not as pretty as they were fifty years ago. Well, the Richmond girls of the present who were nearly fifty years ago are certainly the prettiest girls we have.

A citizen of Boston stated at a luncheon and was sent to jail two weeks for it. He might have had a ridiculous look.

Now that wedding rehearsals are so much in vogue why not have general rehearsals?

Nearly a million people join in celebrating Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayles' marriage the Boston Herald says. Mr. and Mrs. Sayles' relatives say that there are only two people in the world.

On November 24 some fifty municipal officers of the United States voted bond issues totaling \$100,000,000. It is not strange that Richmond finds the majority of its people

An optimist is a man who, while recognizing the high cost of living, observes that "we eat too much anyway."

Cracklin bread and chitties is all that an army ought to ask for dinner tonight.

Most of the gentry who spend their days clamoring for the "people" after election spend their nights clamoring for cavaeck and the grape.

John Haywards got to stop kicking the Yale bulldog around.

DRIVE THE CURRENCY BILL THROUGH.

THE LOVE OF EDUCATION.

We take one sentence from a letter to this paper from the editor of the Virginia Journal of Education as a text for a question.

"Many of the people of Virginia do not and cannot appreciate the value of an education for the simple reason that they are uneducated."

Is this statement true? It is based on some startling figures which show how in Virginia only 262,000 children attend the public schools out of a possible attendance of about 610,000. It is true that the people of Virginia do not appreciate the value of an education, then we are face to face with our fundamental problem. It is not first of all to supply more schools, or better schools, but to implant deep in the hearts of our citizens a keen eagerness to gain education for their children. If we cannot do that, then we must somehow work on the children themselves to make them eager for school, and trust that in the next generation the seed we sow now may result in a wide love for education.

Our correspondent says that if the people do not understand the value of education, the enlightened State must undertake the duty of giving it to them by compulsory education laws until the time when they will seek knowledge and training of their own free will. We do not doubt that compulsory education helps. Yet does human experience show that we can foster the love of anything by forcing it upon the ones who need it? Has the negro become a better citizen because the vote was forced upon him?

We take no position save this. The need in Virginia is for more love for education. Whether we can teach this by pointing out the actual money returns from schooling, or by showing the chance to rise in the world from low position to high, or by emphasizing the opportunity for culture and broader happiness, we cannot say. Probably we can use all these ideas.

What we do desire to repeat is that our problem is to make parents want to send their children to school, and to make children as they grow up, eager to go to school, for the good it will do them. We must have a campaign to arouse the desire. Then fulfillment will come speedily.

It isn't altogether charitable after election to dig up the campaign boasts of a defeated candidate, but we agree with the Bristol Herald-Courier that the temptation to quote this bit of braggadocio from the Hon. L. P. Summers' Bristol speech, as Republican candidate for the State Senate, is irresistible: "If I do not carry Washington County by 400 to 500 over Buchanan, Davenport and Company, I will feel that I have lost my standing among the best people of the county." Individuals would not feel called upon to supply money for what the community had understood. We do not see that this argument is inevitable.

The institution of State aid for widowed-mothers would have an evil result in that private contributions, now amounting to over a half million dollars in New York would cease. Individuals would not feel called upon to supply money for what the community had understood. We do not see that this argument is inevitable.

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